

## RIDE ALONG QUICK RELEASE DOLL CARRIER AND DOLL HELMET

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5           The present invention relates to a ride along quick release child's bicycle seat carrier and accessory helmet for a doll.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10           Playing with dolls is a centuries old tradition among children. It enables children to imitate adult activities, such as responsible child care and personal safety. Providing a child with other accessories for dolls enhances the imagination, and helps the child perform recreational activities that mimic daily  
15 life.

          For example, to imitate the transporting of a child in a bicycle seat of an adult bicycle, children's bicycles are provided with miniature bicycle seat carriers to carry dolls therein.

20           However, these miniature bicycle seat carriers are usually bolted to the bicycle. However, when bolted to a bicycle, the doll carrier cannot be removed by a child, and only by an adult with tools.

          Therefore, there will be situations where the child wants to  
25 temporarily remove the bicycle seat carrier under certain circumstances, such as to decorate the bicycle for a parade, to

attach an accessory trailer to the bicycle or to ride unencumbered in fields and meadows.

Under such circumstances, it would be desirable to have a child's bicycle seat carrier for a doll, which can be quickly and  
5 easily removed by the little nimble hands of a child.

Among related patents include US Patent US Patent No. 5,845,830 of Dreiling, which discloses a cantilevered bicycle seat carrier for a doll, but which has a complicated, not easily releasable clamp to hold the carrier to the bicycle frame.

10 In addition, US Patent Nos. 3,318,615 of Chreist and 1,410,547 of Bobbitt both describe bolted-on doll bicycle seat carriers that can't be easily released by a child. The front doll bicycle seat carrier of US Design Patent No. Des. 281,964 of Rudell is also bolted to the frame.

15 Even the conventional infant-carrying carrier for a human infant, as described in US Patent No. 4,022,488 of Likas, is permanently bolted to the bicycle frame.

#### OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

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It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a quick release ride along child's bicycle seat carrier for a doll.

Other objects which become apparent from the following  
25 description of the present invention.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In keeping with these objects and others, which may become apparent, the present invention is a quick release ride along  
5 child's bicycle seat carrier for a doll. To help teach children about bicycle safety, the doll is provided with a miniature doll-sized helmet to be worn while the doll rides along with the child riding a bicycle.

The seat carrier includes a quick release latch, which can  
10 easily be manipulated by a child. VELCRO® retaining straps are optional and supplementary to the primary latch release.

The doll's bicycle seat carrier is a cantilevered bicycle seat carrier for a doll, which is an uncomplicated, easily releasable clamp to hold the carrier to the child's bicycle  
15 frame.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention can best be understood in connection  
20 with the accompanying drawings. It is noted that the invention is not limited to the precise embodiments shown in drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of the quick  
25 release ride along child's bicycle seat carrier, for a doll, of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a partial elevational view taken within the ellipse 2 of Fig. 1, with the doll removed for clarity;

5        Fig. 3 is a top plan view taken in the direction of Arrow 3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view taken along the lines 4-4 of Fig. 2;

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Fig. 5 is a partial front elevational view taken in the direction of Arrow 5 of Fig. 4, to show engagement of holding means;

15        Fig. 6 is a partial sectioned view taken along lines 6-6 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged partial view taken within the ellipse 7 of Fig. 2;

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Fig. 8 is a top plan view taken along lines 8-8 of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is an enlarged partial view illustrating the anchoring means at the cycle seat post;

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Fig. 10 is a plan view of the rear anchoring means from

underside of the auxiliary carrier to existing frame;

Fig. 11 is an enlarged partial view taken within the ellipse 11 of Fig. 10;

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Fig. 12 is an enlarged diagrammatic perspective view of the auxiliary carrier of the present invention; and,

Fig. 13 is an enlarged diagrammatic view of the central  
10 doll-retaining web panel, holding all strap ties from the carrier.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 Figure 1 shows the quick release ride along bicycle doll carrier 1 of this invention, as mounted on child's bicycle 11. A doll 7 is secured in seat 2 via straps 6 and web panel 5. Doll 7 is depicted as preferably wearing bicycle helmet 8. This is an important safety teaching element for the child playing with this  
20 invention.

While the entire doll carrier 1 is removable by a child using quick release latching elements, a front mounting clamp 9 is rigidly attached to seat post 12 of bicycle 11, for receiving one of the quick release elements. Carrier 2 is retained to  
25 bicycle 11 by front support rods 3 and rear support rod assembly 4, which compose the quick release elements. Dual bicycle frame

members 13 engage rod assembly 4.

The side view of Figure 2 and the top view of Figure 3 provide a general understanding of the geometric relation between the various parts. Slotted holes 15 in carrier 2 permit straps 6 to be anchored within. Auxiliary strap 10 around front support rods 3 has hook and loop fasteners (such as VELCRO®) to snug up the front attachment to mounting clamp 9.

The bottom view of carrier 2 in Figure 4 shows the proximal ends of front support rods 3 and rear support rod assembly 4 with bent ends 23. Ends 23 fit into holes in the sides of rear carrier recess 21, which is a molded feature. The proximal ends 23 of rear support rod assembly 4 must be temporarily forced toward each other to accomplish this so that they snap into the holes. Front support rods 3 are formed at the rear into a continuous rectangular loop which is assembled and retained to carrier 2 by snapping into molded hinge recess 30 through slot 31 which is slightly less wide than the diameter of rods 3.

By swinging rods 3 down, as shown in Figure 6, while forcing the distal ends toward each other, they are snapped into molded front carrier recess 22 under molded retaining wings 24.

Figure 5 shows an alternate view of this carrier 2 and rods 3 detail. These are one-time operations, which are not intended to be performed by the child.

Figures 7, 8, and 9 show details of front mounting clamp 9. Clamp 9 includes two halves 27 and 28 which are attached over bicycle seat carrier post 12 and then fastened together by bolts

26 such that hole 25 exerts a force attaching clamp 9 to post 12. The distal ends 18 of rods 3 are bent at right angles and are received by angled holes 19 in front mounting clamp 9.

Figure 10 shows rear support rod assembly 4 with distal quick release elements 20 (shown as an enlargement in Figure 11). They are simply twisted between bicycle rear frame members 13 to fit as shown in Figure 11.

Figures 12 and 13 show the attachment of straps 6 to carrier 2 and to doll retaining web panel 5 respectively. The ends of straps 6 have matching patches of hook and loop fastener material (such as VELCRO®), to enable them to be attached or detached through the holes provided. If a toy figure with fuzzy material (such as a bear) is used instead of a doll, web panel 5 can be deleted and the ends of straps 6 can be adhered directly to its surface via the "hook" patches at their ends.

The method of attachment of bicycle doll carrier 1 to bicycle 11 is a quick and simple procedure intended to be accomplished by a child. Carrier 2 with pre-attached front support rods 3 and rear support rod assembly 4 is carried to bicycle 11. Quick release ends 20 of rod assembly 4 is twisted to engage bicycle frame members 13. Then front support rods 3 are guided to engage ends 18 within angled holes 19 in front mounting clamp 9. The carrier 2 is rigidly attached at this point. Strap 10 is then wrapped around front support rods 3 and attached via its VELCRO® end patches. Detachment of bicycle doll carrier 1 is simply the reverse procedure.

The exact configuration of the quick release members can be varied, so long as the manual pressure needed by a child grasping the release member from a removably lockable position within a locking member, to a releasable position, loosening it from a nesting position and detaching the carrier from the bicycle frame and can be achieved.

In the foregoing description, certain terms and visual depictions are used to illustrate the preferred embodiment. However, no unnecessary limitations are to be construed by the terms used or illustrations depicted, beyond what is shown in the prior art, since the terms and illustrations are exemplary only, and are not meant to limit the scope of the present invention.

It is further known that other modifications may be made to the present invention, without departing the scope of the invention.